



Rethinking Title I Parental Involvement

*Moving Beyond a Checklist of Activities to a Systemic Plan
for Sustained Family and Community Engagement*

*February 1, 2011
National Title I Conference
Tampa, Florida*





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- **Illustrate** ways the Department plans to embed family and community engagement across programs and grants.



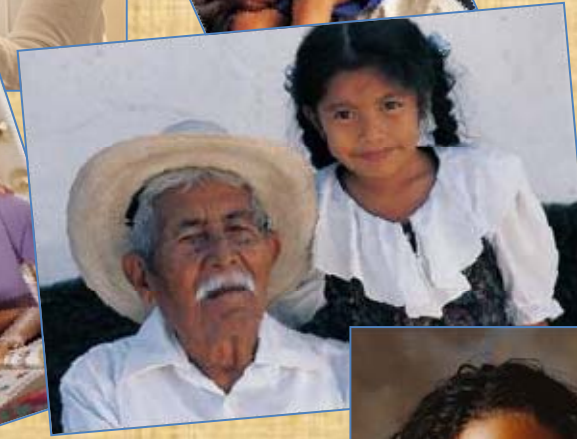
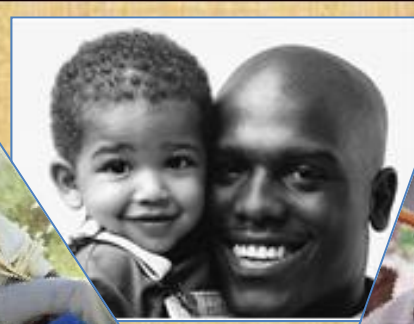
Purposes of Today's Session

- **Share information** about the Department's ESEA reauthorization proposal to support schools, families, and communities.
- **Illustrate** ways the Department plans to embed family engagement across programs and grants.
- **Explore** strategies and best practices for states, districts, and schools to engage families and communities.



Presenters

- Carl Harris, Ed.D.
Deputy Assistant Secretary
Office of Elementary and Secondary Education
U.S. Department of Education
- Ronn E. Friend, Ed.D.
Education Program Specialist
Student Achievement and School Accountability Programs
U.S. Department of Education
- Danita Woodley, MPA
Education Program Specialist
Student Achievement and School Accountability Programs
U.S. Department of Education





U. S. D E P A R T M E N T O F E D U C A T I O N

A Blueprint for Reform

The Reauthorization of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act

college- and career-ready students



equity and opportunity

great teachers and leaders



raise the bar and reward excellence



promote innovation

The Path to the Blueprint

Six Reform Priorities

The Four Areas of Reform



Implement
College – and
Career-Ready
Standards



Great Teachers
and
Great Leaders



Provide Information
to Families and
Engage Families in
Their Children's
Learning



Improve student
Learning and
Achievement in our
lowest performing
Schools

Extensive Outreach



College- and
Career-Ready
Students



Great Teachers
and Great
Leaders



Effective Teaching and
Learning for
a Complete Education



Meeting the Needs of
Diverse Learners



Successful, Safe
and Healthy
Students



Fostering
Innovation and
Excellence





Supporting Families and Communities



Reauthorizing the Elementary and Secondary Education Act

There is no program and no policy that can substitute for a parent who is involved in their child's education from day one.

— ***President Barack Obama***



Supporting Families and Communities

ESEA reauthorization provides the opportunity to **promote the importance of strengthening and supporting family and community engagement** by:

- Supporting **comprehensive district approaches** to family engagement.
- Enhancing **district capacity** around family engagement.
- Providing **additional resources** and **expanding grant opportunities** to operate programs that promote family and community engagement.
- Identifying and supporting **best practices**.



Building a Framework for Systemic Family Engagement

**Carl Harris, Ed.D.
U.S. Department of Education**



A Message from Secretary Duncan





Re-envisioning Parent & Community Involvement

NCLB

Checklist of parent involvement activities

Separate and discrete

Narrowed approach

Often focuses on district and school parental involvement policies

Afterthought in school reform process

Reject or leave low performing schools

Funding to build capacity

Isn't always targeted to the most effective practices; inconsistently implemented



Our Proposal

Comprehensive planning

Focuses on systemic plans and sustaining meaningful partnerships with parents, schools, and community

Family engagement framework

Focuses on integrated strategies

Partnerships

Families and community members have an important role in making the school better

Expand resources and grant opportunities

Support best practices and outstanding local family involvement programs



Re-envisioning Parent & Community Involvement

NCLB

PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT

means the participation of parents in regular, two-way, and meaningful communication involving student academic learning and other school activities, including ensuring —

- that parents play an integral role in assisting their child's learning;
- that parents are encouraged to be actively involved in their child's education at school;
- that parents are full partners in their child's education and are included, as appropriate, in decision-making and on advisory committees to assist in the education of their child; and
- the carrying out of other activities.



Our Proposal

PARENT AND FAMILY ENGAGEMENT

means the **systemic inclusion** of parents and families as **partners** with local educational agencies and school staff in their child's education in a manner that **promotes shared responsibility** for student learning; is **responsive** to student, parent, and family needs; and **reinforces that learning begins at birth and takes place in the home, school, and community.**



Family & Community Engagement - Principles

- Treat parents and families as the **key stakeholders** they are in their children's education.
- Shift focus from a **discrete activity** to an **integrated strategy**.
- Strengthen teachers' and leaders' **skills** in working with families.
- Engage families in **accessing** and **using** information about their child's school and their child's progress.



Family & Community Engagement - Structure

Increase Funding and Grant Opportunities

Promise Neighborhoods

Create birth-through-college-and-career-continuum of:

- effective community services;
- strong family supports;
- comprehensive education reform.

Successful, Safe, & Healthy Students

Implement climate measurement systems to target resources to:

- improve school safety and strengthen family & student engagement;
- improve students' physical & mental health.

21st Century Community Learning Centers

Strengthen community learning centers & support more learning time including:

- after-school programs;
- comprehensive supports to students and families;
- full-service community schools.



Family & Community Engagement - Structure

Increase Funding and Grant Opportunities

Double Required Title I Dollars for Parent Engagement From 1 Percent to 2 Percent

Roughly \$270 million for districts to implement systemic and comprehensive ways to engage families to:

- accelerate student achievement;
- connect with school reform.

Create Optional Family Engagement and Responsibility Fund

\$145 million in existing Title I funds for State-Led

Competition to:

- support outstanding local family involvement programs;
- support best practices at the local level.

*Secretary Duncan's Proposal: *Mom's Congress on Education and Learning Conference – May 5, 2010*



Family & Community Engagement - Structure

Shared Responsibility

Promotes the systematic inclusion of parents and families as partners with district and school staff in their child's education.

Responsive

Is responsive to student, parent, and family needs, including the needs of diverse families and the variety of family structures.

Multidimensional

Reinforces that learning begins at birth and takes place in the home, school, and community.

Comprehensive

Focus on family engagement strategies that increase student achievement and create a welcoming environment, open communication, and strong collaboration between families and their children's teachers, schools, and districts.



Family & Community Engagement Plans

Each District and School Receiving Title I Funds

develops a family engagement plan with participation of parents, school leaders, teachers, and other stakeholders (Proposed section 1118(b))

Responds to the needs of families

Input from families

**School and family
demographic**

Student achievement

Promotes strategies to engage families

**Create a welcoming
environment**

**Foster collaboration
and communication
between families and
communities,
schools, and districts**

Conducts an annual review

**Input from parents
and school and
district staff**

**Revise and update as
needed to ensure
strategies are being
realized**

Is included in the schoolwide or targeted assistance plan



NATIONAL POLICY FORUM FOR
FAMILY, SCHOOL, &
COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Beyond Random Acts
Family, School, and Community Engagement
as an Integral Part of Education Reform

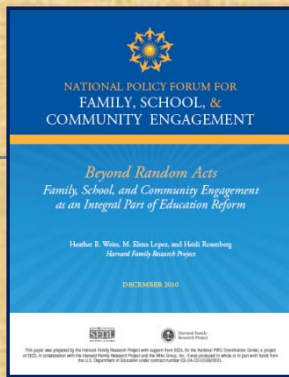
Heather B. Weiss, M. Elena Lopez, and Heidi Rosenberg
Harvard Family Research Project

DECEMBER 2010



Harvard Family
Research Project

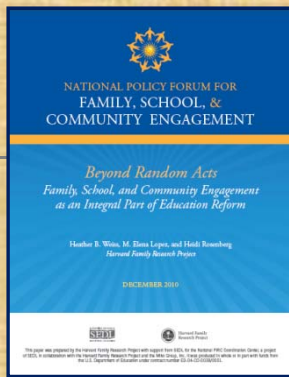
This paper was prepared by the Harvard Family Research Project with support from SEDL for the National PIRC Coordination Center, a project of SEDL in collaboration with the Harvard Family Research Project and the Mike Group, Inc. It was produced in whole or in part with funds from the U.S. Department of Education under contract number ED-04-0039/0001.



Reframing the Discussion

The policy forum posed four questions to reframe a national strategy:

1. What does family and community engagement look like in a new era of education reform?
2. How can federal, state, and local stakeholders leverage existing and emerging legislation and programs to create systemic family engagement?
3. How can educators and other stakeholders use student performance data to connect families and schools in meaningful ways?
4. What are the opportunities for engaging families in transforming low-performing schools?

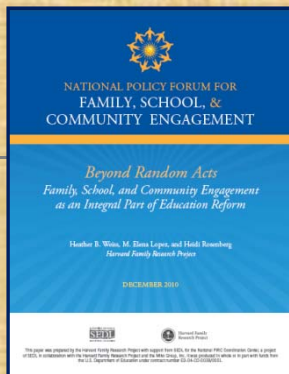


Reframing the Discussion

What does family and community engagement look like?

Engagement is a shared responsibility.

- The role of supporting learning
- The school partnership role
- The role of advocate for school improvement
- The decision-maker and leadership role

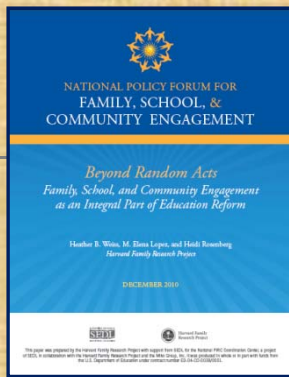


Reframing the Discussion

How can federal, state, and local stakeholders create systemic family engagement?

Family engagement is a sustained pathway from early childhood programs through high school.

- Federal government, states, and districts rethink practices and policies.
- Focus on scaling-up research-based and innovative practices.

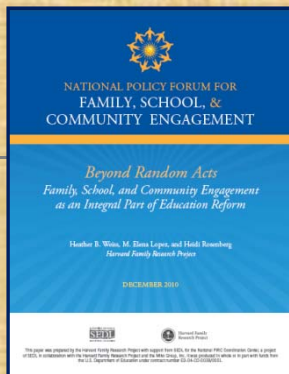


Reframing the Discussion

How can educators and others use data to connect families and schools ?

Data engage families throughout the school years.

- Student data help families to focus on the *trajectory* of high school graduation and college and career readiness.
- Student data help families to guide their child's learning goals and connect them to other learning resources, i.e. afterschool programs.



Reframing the Discussion

How can families be engaged in transforming low-performing schools?

Families and communities can be a force for turning around low-performing school.

- Student data become a tool for honest and transparent conversations between families and schools.
- School staff reach out to parents to build a culture of trust.



Embrace the Challenge: *Tips for Building a Framework for Systemic Family & Community Engagement*

**Danita A. Woodley, MPA
U.S. Department of Education**





Poverty Data

Increase in the Number of Families in Poverty

The poverty rate in 2009 (14.3 percent) was the highest poverty rate since 1994 but was 8.1 percentage points lower than the poverty rate in 1959.

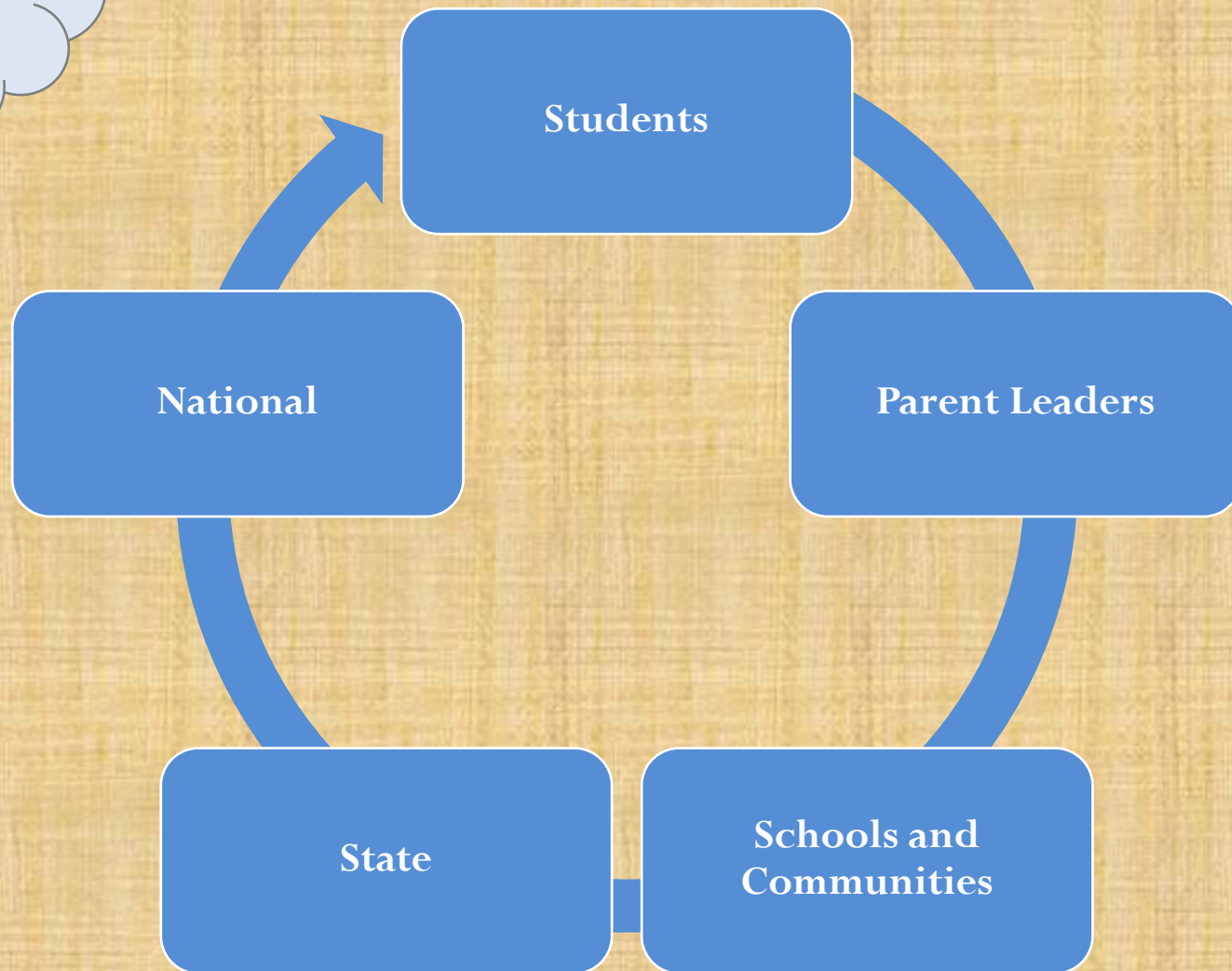
The number of people in poverty in 2009 (43.6 million) is the largest number in the 51 years for which poverty estimates have been published.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau (2010):

<http://www.census.gov/hhes/www/poverty/about/overview/index.html>

Build Capacity for Family Engagement and Student Achievement


Tip #1





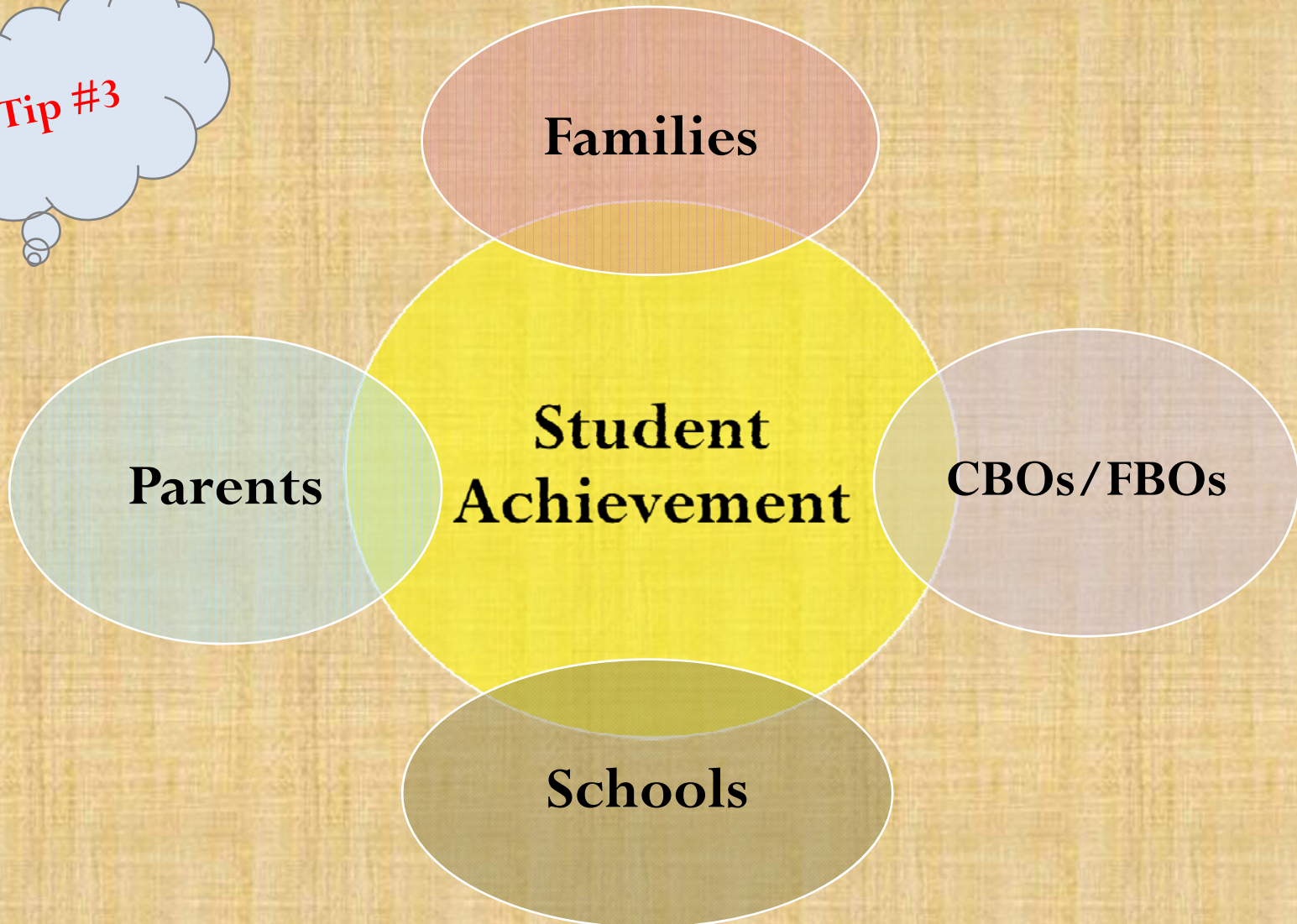
Tip #2

Build A Culture of Engagement

- 
- Engage Families and Communities of **Low-Performing Schools**
 - Develop a **Positive Climate/Culture**
 - **Utilize Data** to Engage Parents

Nurture Effective Partnerships

Tip #3



Find and Replicate Promising Practices

Tip #4

**National
PTA**

**Coalition for
Community
Schools**

**National Network
of Partnership
Schools**

**Promise
Neighborhoods**

**National PIRC &
Coordination
Center**

There are many promising family engagement practices across the country!



Seek Resources



Promising Strategies Resources

- Coalition for Community Schools:
<http://www.communityschools.org>
- Family-School Partnerships: National Standards for Family – School Partnerships:
http://www.pta.org/national_standards.asp
- National Dropout Prevention Center/Network:
http://www.dropoutprevention.org/modelprograms/get_programs.php?effstrat=5
- National PIRC Coordination Center:
<http://www.nationalpirc.org/>
- Promise Neighborhoods:
<http://www2.ed.gov/programs/promiseneighborhoods/index.html>

Tools for Building Partnerships

- Corporation of National and Community Service - Funding Opportunities and Partnerships for Native American Communities:
<http://www.learnandserve.gov/>
- Henderson, T., Mapp, K., Johnson, V., Davies, D. (2007) *Beyond the Bake Sale: The Essential Guide to Family-School Partnerships.*
- National Network of Partnership Schools:
<http://www.csos.jhu.edu/p2000/>
- State Offices of Faith-Based and Neighborhood Partnerships:
<http://www.whitehouse.gov/administration/eop/ofbnp/offices/states>

Tools for Building Capacity

- Capacity-Building Toolkits for Faith-Based and Community Organizations:
<http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/ocs/ccf/resources/toolkit.html>
- U.S. Department of Education - Parent Power:
<http://www2.ed.gov/parents/academic/help/parentpower/booklet.pdf>
- Weiss, H., Lopez, E., Rosenberg, H. (2010) Harvard Family Research Project. *Beyond random acts: Family, school, and community engagement as an integral part of education reform.*

Data Resources

- **National Dropout Prevention Center:**
<http://www.dropoutprevention.org/statistics>
- **U.S. Department of Education/National Center for Education Statistics:**
<http://nces.ed.gov/nationsreportcard/>
- **US Census Bureau - American Fact Finder:**
[http://factfinder.census.gov/home/saff/main.html? lang=en](http://factfinder.census.gov/home/saff/main.html?lang=en)
- **US Census Bureau - State and County Quick Facts:**
<http://quickfacts.census.gov/qfd/>

ESEA Reauthorization

U.S. Department of Education

- ESEA Reauthorization:

<http://www.ed.gov/blog/topic/esea-reauthorization/>

- Administration's Blueprint:

<http://www2.ed.gov/policy/elsec/leg/blueprint/index.html>

- Supporting Families and Communities Blueprint:

<http://www2.ed.gov/policy/elsec/leg/blueprint/faq/supporting-family.pdf>

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